

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 2, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Claim 2 describes an~~ An exemplary embodiment of the method ~~of claim 1,~~ wherein surface elements belonging to a particular sub-part of the object are identified. Due to the identification of surface elements of sub-parts of the object, particular subparts of the object may be recognized automatically. For example, by identifying surface elements in the model belonging to the femur head, a femur head in an unseen image can be automatically identified and the boundaries of the femur head can be identified.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 3, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

According to ~~[[the]]~~ another exemplary embodiment ~~of claim 3,~~ geometrical properties of the object are derived on the basis of the geometrical primitive. Advantageously, this allows a very simple procedure to identify geometrical properties of the object which are not based on the surface of the object. For example, the center of the femur head is identified from coordinates and parameters of the sphere fit to the femur head. Advantageously, a computation time is minimized.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 3, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

~~[[The]]~~ Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention ~~according to claim 4~~ describes a preferred way to identify surface elements of the deformable model belonging to a particular sub-part of the object.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 3, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention ~~in accordance with claim 5~~, relates to a method for determining a deformable model for adaptation to an object, allowing the determination of a model which enables the automated measurement of geometric properties of objects when applied to an object. Furthermore, this method is a simple method for determining a deformable model which enables a highly accurate adaptation of the model to the object.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 3, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Advantageously, according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention ~~as set forth in claim 6~~, surface elements belonging to sub-parts of the object are selected and ~~labelled~~ labeled. This allows a simple and efficient reconnaissance of sub-parts of the object and an identification of surface elements belonging to these sub-parts requiring a minimized number of calculations when the model is applied to a new object in an image.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 3, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

According to yet another exemplary embodiment of the present invention ~~as set forth in claim 7~~, a simple method is provided allowing an efficient determination of a transformation rule for fitting the geometric primitive into the surface model.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 3, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

~~In claim 8, an~~ Another exemplary embodiment of an image processing device for executing the method according to an ~~exemplary~~ embodiment of the present invention ~~is described~~ and ~~claim 9 describes~~ a computer program for such an image processing device is described.